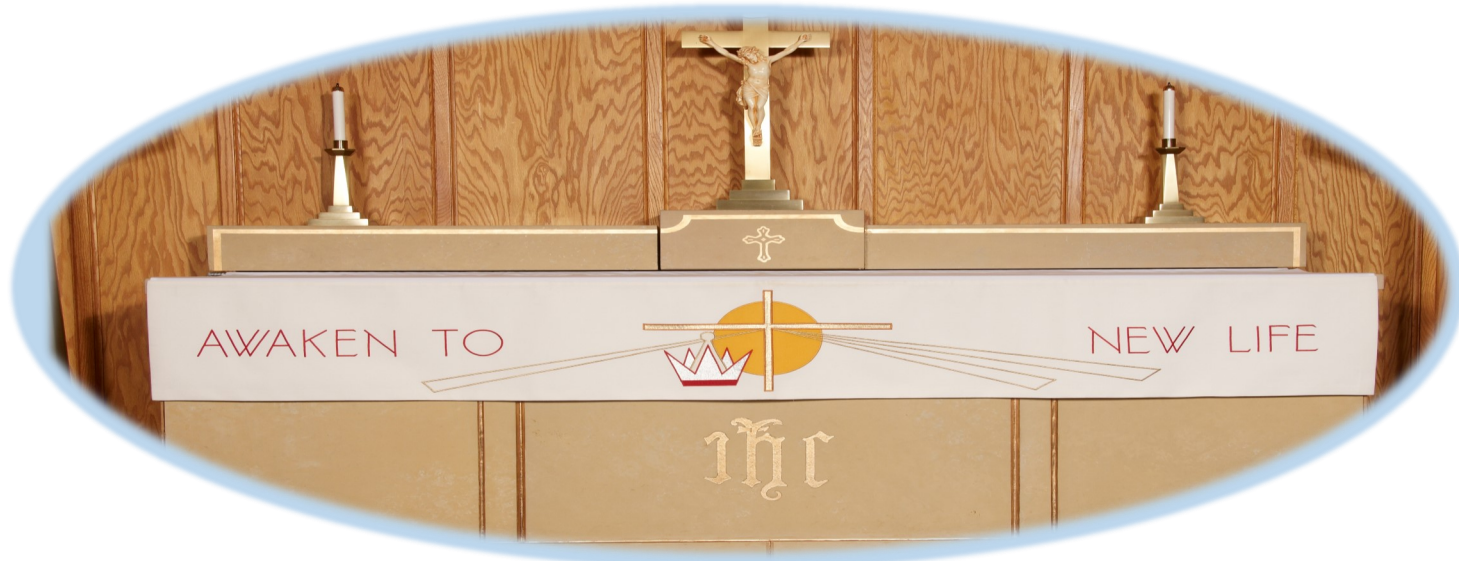


St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

December 27, 2020

"Trust in the Lord with all our heart, and lean not on our own understanding. In all you ways, acknowledge him and he will direct your path." **(Proverbs 3:5-6)**



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

504 Walnut Mapleton, Iowa 51034

Church Office: 881-2243 Fax: 881-1163

Email: office@stmatthewmapleton.org

website: www.stmatthewmapleton.org

FB page: [St. Matthew Lutheran-Mapleton](https://www.facebook.com/St.MatthewLutheran-Mapleton)

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

Pastor

(712-840-1652)cell

Karen Krusen

*Office Administrator Assistant
(volunteer)*

(712) 881-2243-office #

(712) 840-9059 cell



1st Sunday after Christmas

27 December 2020

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA

Isaiah 61:10—62:3 / Psalm 111 / Galatians 4:4–7 / Luke 2:22–40

Sermon Title: God's Word Never Fails

Sermon Text: Luke 2:22-40

“Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father, and our LORD Jesus Christ.” (2 Tim. 1:2) Amen.

Even though the rest of the secular world has stopped listening to Christmas music on the radio, and some folks have taken down their Christmas decorations, the Christian church recognizes that the actual Christmas season runs from Christmas Day until January 5—a total of TWELVE DAYS. That's what the song with the same name is talking about—the twelve days of the actual Christmas Season.

So, Merry Christmas! We just celebrated the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ two days ago. Today is the First Sunday after Christmas, and our Gospel reading jumps ahead to Jesus as a baby being presented at the temple according to the Law of Moses.

22 And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, ‘Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord’ [Exodus 13:2, 12]) 24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.’ [Leviticus 12:8]” (Luke 2:22-24)

According to the Law of Moses written in Exodus and Leviticus, after a baby was born, the parents were to take the baby to the temple in Jerusalem and offer a sacrifice to God on behalf of the child. The sacrifice was acknowledging that all life comes from God—and that God makes all things holy.

In the Book of Exodus, God told the Israelites that every first-born baby—boys and girls—is considered holy. According to the Law of Moses, the parents of that child need to offer a sacrifice to make the mother clean once again, since the process of giving birth made the mother unclean.

The woman, who gave birth *“shall bring to the priest at the entrance of the tent of meeting a lamb a year old for a burnt offering, and a pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering, and he shall offer it before the LORD and make atonement for her.”* (Leviticus 12:6-7)

So Mary and Joseph were already near Jerusalem to be counted in the census. They had their first-born baby—Jesus in the nearby town of Bethlehem. And, according to Leviticus 12:3: *“And on the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised.”*

Eight days after Jesus was born, he was circumcised. God instituted circumcision back when he changed Abram's name to Abraham. *“You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you.”* (Genesis 17:11) This covenant that God made with Abraham is that he would lead and guide Abraham and his family all the days of their lives. This covenant was also a sign for every single person, who was born to Abraham—all his biological descendants and all of his spiritual descendants.

This covenant was assurance to Abraham and to all of us that when God says he will do something, you can 2

know for a rock-solid fact that thing will happen just as God said it would. Circumcision was also a covenant between God and man, reminding man how serious our relationship is between God and us.

So Mary and Joseph go to the temple in Jerusalem on the day that Jesus turned eight days old. *“25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.”* (Luke 2:25-26)

A devout believer in the One True God, who would send the Messiah into this world to save his people from going to hell, was hanging around the temple. Scripture tells us that Simeon was *“...righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel.”* Back in the Prophet Isaiah, we read about waiting expectantly for the coming Messiah. The Prophet Isaiah says: *“It will be said on that day, ‘Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.’”* (Isaiah 25:9)

Some could say that Simeon was NOT a regular guy, because he acted very religious. That’s not true. Simeon WAS just a regular guy, who Scripture points out that he lived the way God desires of us. Simeon didn’t do anything extra special to be considered *“...righteous and devout....”* He was considered this, because of the work of the Holy Spirit in Simeon’s life. And every one of you here today, who believes in Jesus Christ, is also considered righteous in God’s eyes, because of what Jesus did for you through his death and resurrection.

26 And it had been revealed to him—that is, Simeon—by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.” We don’t know how old Simeon was, but he was likely an older man. And Gold told him that before he died, he would get to see with his own eyes the Messiah promised from of old. And even though many years passed before Simeon got to see the Messiah—baby Jesus—Simeon believed whole-heartedly that what God told him that it was true and that it would most definitely happen.

What about you? Do you have that same conviction? Do you believe God 100% of the time or do you also trust your gut instincts at the same time? When you fill up with Jesus, then you will know the truth of God more. When you pray and confess your sins. When you receive God’s gracious, life-giving forgiveness, then God will forgive you. When you confess your sins, then you are more open and receptive to hearing and listening to God the Holy Spirit like Simeon.

“And [Simeon] came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, 28 he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ‘Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation 31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.’” (Luke 2:27-32)

When Joseph and Mary came into the temple to have their first-born baby son circumcised, the Holy Spirit prompted Simeon and he went and found the young couple. As soon as Simeon laid eyes on the baby Jesus, Simeon grabbed up the child and was so overcome with joy that he praised God with these words:

“‘Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation 31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.’” (Luke 2:29-32)

Simeon’s song—or as it’s called in the liturgy—the Nunc Dimittis—is what we sing at the end of our worship service. It’s appropriate that we sing his song at the end of our worship service, because in worship we, too, have see

the Messiah--in his Holy Word and in Holy Communion.

The Holy Spirit prompted Simeon to sing this song right after he was holding baby Jesus in his arms. *“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation 31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”* (Luke 2:29-32)

Simeon was not only singing out of his own joy, but he was also prophesying about what would happen. Jesus came not only to save Jews, but to save ALL people. And why do all people need to be saved? Aren't all people pretty good?

Well, if you subscribe to current thought—then all people are pretty good. But that isn't what God says: *“For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”* (Romans 3:22b-24)

Every one of us has sinned, and do not measure up to God's standards. And this is exactly why baby Jesus was born, to fix this terrible problem. Jesus was born, lived a perfect life, was killed and then raised from the dead three days later in order to make us holy and right in God's eyes. This is why Jesus was born.

So, there we find Joseph and Mary, and Simeon, who they do not know, holding their baby boy and prophesying about Jesus' purpose. *“33 And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, ‘Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed 35 (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.’”* (Luke 2:33-35)

Joseph and Mary are most likely a little confused as to what Simeon is saying and doing, and yet, they are not totally repulsed by what is happening. After all, this is the same couple, who were told by an angel about how Jesus would be born.

34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, ‘Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed.’ Here Simeon is already prophesying about how Jesus' life will impact the rest of the world. Simeon is simply remembering a couple of passages from the Prophet Isaiah, which talk about Jesus being a cornerstone to those who believe in him, and a stumbling block for those who don't believe in him.

And this conflict continues today, and will continue until the day when Jesus returns one last time. This conflict of whether Jesus is real and you should believe in him, or he is simply a fairy tale. Even though I can't make you believe in Jesus, I can encourage you to do so when I share with you the hope I have in Jesus.

Simeon believed wholeheartedly in God. He trust in God and waited—probably many years—to see God's plan unfold. Simeon got to see the promised Messiah, holding that new-born baby in his arms, praising God for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Simeon knew that now that he had seen baby Jesus, he was ready to die and go be with God in heaven.

Cling to the promises of God in his Word just as Simeon did. What God says is rock-solid truth. You can take him at his Word. *“Blessed be the LORD who has given rest to his people Israel, according to all that he promised. Not one word has failed of all his good promise, which he spoke by Moses his servant.”* (1 Kings 8:56) To God be the glory now and forever. Amen.

Now, may the peace of God which transcends all understanding guard and keep your hearts in Christ Jesus. Amen. 4

Helping Hands 1 pm is resuming,

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wed. 12-30-20 at 1:00 pm.

Our Church is in need of volunteers to run the screens please. This could be an opportunity to serve your Lord and Savior. It is basically following the service on screens and pressing a button.

Christmas Cards for sale– at the back of the church on the table. \$5.00 a box. Pay Rita Lafrentz, or in the office. Now you can buy for next year! .

Rev. Steven & Cynthia Schumacher: Good Tidings of Great Joy. May your lives be filled with Christmas Joy.

“But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.” – Galatians 4:4-5

“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable Gift.” – 2 Corinthians 9:15

“And there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them.” – Luke 2:8-9

"But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." – Matthew 1:20

“And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.” – Philippians 2:8-10

Rev. Steven & Cynthia Schumacher



PARAMENTS ON OUR ALTAR:

Color is everywhere. Color is God's way of filling his world with beauty and giving pleasure to those who live in this colorful world. Christians, for centuries, have used color in divine worship to emphasize the redemptive action of God through his Son. Color's Purpose However, color and its bright message can easily be taken for granted or mistaken in its purpose. The paraments, vestments, altar clothes, banners, traditionally employed each Sunday, must be seen as more than an attempt to decorate, or give accent to the chancel. That is, no doubt, the view of some. It's true; interior design and decoration are important. But a greater service is demanded of our liturgical colors than merely making the surroundings "pretty." Furthermore, when altar paraments are used year after year without much attention given to their message, as well as their care, the pastor, along with his faithful altar guild would do well to throw away the key to the sacristy and refrain from using those altar cloth "decorations." Frequent instruction about the church year and its corresponding colors must go hand in hand with its weekly use

Color, like music, plays an important role in the life of God's worshiping people. Just as music is the "handmaiden to theology," liturgical color complements the message of the seasons and occasions during the church year. Taking a familiar seat in the nave of his/her chapel preceding worship on any given Sunday, the worshiper's emotions and intellect are immediately engaged by color. Liturgical colors aid in establishing a climate in which Law and Gospel may be heard and received.

Color allows us to see the Light of Life, Jesus Christ. It serves to communicate the message of salvation. And communicate it does when it reinforces a specific "colorful" chapter in the life of our Lord and his church, retold annually by the church calendar.

Symbolism of Colors It is appropriate, from time to time, to take a thoughtful and fresh look at the colors that are displayed throughout the church year. In the end, we admit, the use of paraments, vestments, altar clothes, banners is an adiaphoron. Even the symbolism behind the traditional colors is somewhat arbitrary and open to additional interpretations as generations pass. The primary source and guarantor of their meanings is tradition. However, the important thing to remember is why we retain this traditional liturgical standard. The value of the "Bg-BgsPwr" color scheme rests in their purpose: to serve God's worshiping community by assisting in communicating the holy faith from generation to generation. In every age, the beauty and symbolism of color in the church continues to serve us exceptionally well!

White is the color of purity and completeness. The theme for the "great fifty days" of Easter is supported by the use of white. This color, used primarily during these Sundays, assists in bearing the message that "though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow." Christ's triumph from the grave on Resurrection day is the cause for our rejoicing. His purity before his Father becomes our purity. White reinforces that message of joy. In addition to its use during Eastertide, white is the appointed color for such festive Sundays as Christmas and its twelve days; Epiphany (Jan. 6) and the first Sunday following it, observed as the Baptism of Our Lord; the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, also known as Transfiguration Sunday; Holy Trinity Sunday; and twenty-one minor festivals and occasions listed on the church year calendar in *Lutheran Service Book*. In all, white serves as the best festive color for the church year.

Douglas K. Escue—pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Originally published in *Lutheran Worship Notes*, Issue 29, 1994.

God's Gift of Possessions



THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not steal. (*Exodus 20:15*)

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ... He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. (*Ephesians 4:25, 28*)

FOR SHARING

1. Robin Hood. Jesse James. Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. What wrong message do we give by making these individuals into "folk-heroes"?
2. What kinds of actions—both sinful and illegal—come under the category "stealing"? What negative attitudes and behaviors can result from "petty thefts"?
3. A Samaritan in the parable (Luke 10:29–37) gave himself unselfishly for the benefit and welfare of another—a stranger and an enemy! In what ways is Jesus *The Good Samaritan*? How has He rescued and cared for us?
4. Jesus "took" our sins and left them at the cross that we may have new life. How does our new life in Christ affect our attitudes and actions toward others? toward their property and possessions?
5. Share, as time permits, the specific ways you and your congregation can "improve and protect" your neighbor's property.

PRAYER Heavenly Father, we thank You that You have provided us and our neighbors with material possessions. Help us all to realize that our money and our possessions are gifts from You. Help us to be grateful for all the gifts we have received from Your bountiful goodness. When we are tempted to steal, remind us to look to Your Son, Jesus, for our strength to do Your will. In His name we pray. Amen.

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAY

Name	Baptism
Julie Bollig	Dec 13, 1959
Samantha Kelm	Dec 14, 1986
Crystal Bretthauer	Dec 16, 1956
Ryan Paulsen	Dec 19, 1965
Trista Ohlmeier	Dec 19, 2006
Carolyn Seton	Dec 2, 1939
Ramona Weber	Dec 3, 1961
Kathy Trucke	Dec 30, 1972
Donna Goslar	Dec 5, 1949



We are listing
Baptismal birthdays
to remember and
celebrate the day we were
adopted into the family of
God
through the washing of the
Holy Spirit.

BIRTHDAYS

Name	Birthday
John Arndt	Dec 26, 1937 82
Kay Elmquist	Dec 31, 1937 82
James Else	Dec 10, 1953
Fred Fletcher	Dec 18, 1940
Janeal Holmes	Dec 26, 1951
Gene Kaderabek	Dec 18, 1962
Jeff Krusen	Dec 11, 1957
Ryan Paulsen	Dec 5, 1965
Kurt Schmidt	Dec 3, 1980
Kathy Trucke	Dec 1, 1952
Dora Witzel	Dec 23, 1937 82



Darrell and Lin Scott	56 yrs.	Dec 13, 1964
Roger and Linda Miller	52 yrs.	Dec 27, 1968
Duane and Marilyn Hamann	57 yrs.	Dec 1, 1963



NEEDED /WEEK	\$3,225.02
TOTAL GIVING (12-20-20)	
Thank offering (12-20-20)	
Initial offering	
SUNDAY ATTENDANCE (12-20-20)	41
VISITORS (12-20-20)	1
SUNDAY COMMUNED (12-20-20)	33
SUNDAY CHILDREN IN CHURCH	7
BIBLE CLASS	9
SUNDAY SCHOOL	0

Faith Step: Mute your phone this morning for thirty minutes. Sit in silence and ask Jesus to speak with you. Take notes and answer His. Call

	<u>Week of Schedule 12-28 to 01-03</u>
Mon(28)	Pastor's Family Day
Wed(30)	Confirmation Class 6 pm to 7 pm Helping Hands, at 1:00
Sun.(03)	Church Services W/ Holy Communion 9:30 am Bible Class 10:45 am Sunday School 10:45 am



<u>Give the office a call or the Pastor...</u>		
Before going to hospital	Need a ride to a Dr's appt	Need of a visit
Private communion	Address or name changes	Birth of your baby
Desire to serve your Lord through the Church	Entering armed services	Making wedding plans
	Death in the family	

Please continue to pray for our church leaders.



"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." **Romans 12:12**

Pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

PRAYER WARRIORS— The prayer warriors desire to hear from you as to how they can pray for you. We have 14 prayer warriors. We welcome more men and women to join us. if you need prayer call **Alice Miller** phone number 712-880-2380.

Members of St. Matthew with Special Needs and Concerns

Nazaria Kaderabek
Selma Schrader
Myrna Gosch
Lavonne Witzel
Alan Bruhn

Bud Dose
Elnora Dose
Delores Gosch
Kathy Trucke

Carol Dose
Jerry Albers
Hans Witzel
Marla Hogan

Family / Friends of Members with Special Needs and Concerns

Sheri Heilman— Sue Oberg's sister; **Ron Kraffle** friend of Marla & Joe Hogan; **Richard Swain**, neighbor of Karen and Jeff Krusen; **Jim Kueny**, Karen's husband **Lynn Smith** friend of Marla and Joe Hogan; **Jazmin Mauch**, granddaughter of Marla and Joe Hogan; **Penny Mauch** friend of Marilyn & Duane Hamann;

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY Triston Twedt, Ryan Trucke, Jackie Cardwell, Dirk Radke

Please drop them a line or two, they love getting mail and they would love hearing from their church family.

Bonnie Banks 86 yrs. Jun 2, 1934
Main Street Apartments
516 Main Street Apt 2
Mapleton, IA 51034

George Koithan 88 yrs. Sept. 2, 1932
1726 Marcella Heights
Carroll, IA 51040

Elnora Dose 85 yrs. May 11, 1935
Embassy Rehab & Care Center
206 Port Neal Rd

Delbert Kroll 87 yrs. Jun. 1, 1933
Ring Street
Mapleton IA 51034

Myrna Gosch 79 yrs. Jan 9, 1941
Pleasant View Care Center
200 Shannon Dr. Rm #108
Whiting, IA 51063

Delores Boysen 81 yrs. Mar. 5, 1939
31153 Juinter Ave
Hinton, IA 51024

Phyllis Fick 92 yrs. Jun 3, 1928
Willow Dale Care—Assisted Living
404 1st St.
Battle Creek, IA 51006

Carol Dose 86 yrs. Jan. 22, 1934
Sunrise Ave.
Maple Heights Nursing Home

*** indicates a new address*

Spread the Fruits of the Spirit:

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Gentleness, Kindness, Self-Control, Goodness, and Faithfulness. You will be rewarded

ADDRESSES FOR OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS NEEDING PRAYERS: BE A KIND CHRISTIAN

Nazaria Kaderabek
310 S. 6th St.
Mapleton, IA 51034

Hans Witzel & Lavonne
36252 Co. Hwy E 34
Castana, IA 51010

Selma Schrader
21 Ohm Drive
Mapleton, IA 51034

Richard Swain
407 S. 5th Street
Mapleton, IA 51034

Delores Gosch
202 S. 2nd St.
Mapleton, IA 51034

Jim Kueny
707 Oak St.
Mapleton, IA 51034

Charles (Bud) Dose
302 N. 2nd Ave.
Anthon, IA 51004

Alan Bruhn
14535 Walnut Ave
Mapleton, IA 51034

Sheri Heilman
(Sue Oberg's sister)
1721 Lincoln Street
Great Bend, KS 67530

Lynne Smith: chose to not publish

Elnora Dose
Embassy Rehab & Care Center
206 Port Neal Rd
Sergeant Bluff, IA 51054

Jazmin Mauch: chose to not publish

Ron Kraffle: chose to not publish

Jerry Albers
1313 Maple Street
Onawa, IA 51040

Kim Whitton chose to not publish

Amy Hamann chose to not publish

Carol Dose
1 Sunrise Ave.
Maple Heights Nursing Home
Mapleton, IA 51034

Myrna Gosch
Pleasant Care Center
200 Shannon Dr.
Whiting, IA 51063



THE LORD HAS COME

THE LORD HAS COME

THE LORD HAS COME

Joy TO THE WORLD

THE LORD HAS COME

THE LORD HAS COME

THE LORD HAS C





St Matthew Lutheran
Church
504 Walnut Street
Mapleton, IA 51034



OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO CONTINUE TO FILL UP WITH JESUS BY READING AND LISTENING TO THE BIBLE:

LET'S STAY CONNECTED: St. Matthew Lutheran Church Service at 9:30 am e very Sunday am at the church.

Facebook page-.St. Matthew Lutheran-Mapleton- Our services at 9 am every Sunday website:

www.stmatthewmapleton.org – Our services posted weekly Mission Central... www.missioncentral.us Lutheran

Family Service: www.lfsiowa.org **WEB SITES:** Iowa District West—www.idwlcms.org Camp Okoboji –

www.campokoboji.org“**THY STRONG WORD**” is a daily devotion airing at 6:25 am Monday through Saturday on KDSN (104.9 FM) “**THE LUTHERAN HOUR**” can be heard every Sunday on radio station—KDSN-FM (104.9) at 6:30 am and 1530 at 10:30 am. It is available 24 hours a day on the internet in Real Audio. Visit www.lhm.org and

click on the Lutheran Hour on the left side of the page "**THE GOOD SHEPHEARD HOUR** airs on the following stations every Sunday: 8 am Fort Dodge-KVFD 1400 AM; 8 am Sioux City—KSCJ 1360 AM; 10:30 am Storm Lake—

KAYL 101.5 FM **Lutheran Family Services**: wwwlofsiowa.org **MainStreet Living**— is a Television Program that is endorsed by the Iowa West District of the LCMS This program is broadcast on KCAU, the ABC network affiliate in Sioux City on Sunday morning, starting at 10:00 AM. The first 30 minutes are remastered episode of “This is the Life” The second half of the program is a modified Lutheran worship service that features a different Pastor each week, from the area.



Dear Father, help me not just to look for blessings during the Christmas season, but to go out of my way to bless others. Remind me to pray for friends and loved ones every time I pray for myself. Teach me to invest in my relationships by sharing Your love and grace with others. In Jesus' Name, Amen